

# Board of Crawford County Commissioners

## Commissioners' Journal

2023, TWENTIETH MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
Girard, KS. **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 10:00 AM**

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to Kansas Statutes.

Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 18 in due and regular session with open doors.

Commissioner Bruce Blair served as the presiding officer.

Commissioners Carl Wood and Tom Moody were in attendance.

County Clerk Lisa Lusker and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board.

Chairman Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING CONSENT AGENDA**

**On motion (23-125)** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the **March 10, 2023** minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.**

### **SIGNING OF MOTIONS**

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners' signatures:

Motion 23	120	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the March 7, 2023 minutes
Motion 23	121	To approve the Kansas Department of Health & Environment Aid to Local Grants Application and authorize the Chairman to sign Grant Application Signature Page
Motion 23	122	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss the Maintenance Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Maintenance Supervisor Robert Gorentz and to reconvene by 10:30 AM

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Motion 23	123	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss the Mental Health Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 11:05 AM
Motion 23	124	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss KDOT and Highway 69 and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim and to reconvene by 11:16 AM

**UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS**

**PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS**

**MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH**

**MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

**MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES**

**Item One:** Mr. Gene Vogler, SEK Recycling Inc Treasurer addressed the Commissioners with an update. He stated that the last time he addressed the Commissioners was in 2019 and things are much better at the recycling center. He said that in August of last year they contracted with Greenbush to get more planning in the operations and they and came up with a 5-year plan which shows what has been done in the last 5 years and what they hope to do in the next 5 years. He stated that he has a copy of the 5-year plan for each of the Commissioners. Mr. Vogler explained that SEK Recycling Inc is a 501C3 and is independent of any governmental organization although they do receive grants from Kansas Department of Health & Environment. He listed some of the other grants they receive. He gave background information on how the recycling center was started. He stated that they are directed by a voluntary Board of Directors. Mr. Vogler spoke about how much material they recycle and addressed other services the center offers and how much of their revenue comes from these services. He spoke about the prices of the materials and stated that in August 2021 they received \$160 a ton for cardboard and \$60 a ton for mixed paper. He explained that in December 2021, the price of cardboard dropped to \$40 a ton and in November 2021 they had to pay \$20 a ton for someone to take the mixed paper. He stated in March of 2023, cardboard is still \$40 a ton and mixed paper has increased and they receive \$5 a ton. He said that this might be a challenging year. He addressed issue with the management of the facility and stated that Greenbush said that they had no succession plans for the management of the group. Mr. Vogler said that the Board has agreed to hire a Recycling Coordinator/Administrator and the primary job will be fundraising and grant writing and they hope to have a hire by July. He discussed the employees' salaries and the turnaround in employment and the difficulties that arise because of the turnaround. He explained that a fundraiser is being organized by the Board of Directors fund committee that will take place in the spring, starting in the middle of April and ending at the end of May. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Vogel for the update. Commissioner Wood discussed hiring individuals that do not have enough quarters to receive Social Security benefits.

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## MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

**Item One:** County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 30 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

**On motion (23-126)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 30 minutes to discuss the Mental Health Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Mental Health Executive Director Heather Spaur and to reconvene by 10:52 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 10:22 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 10:52 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### NEW BUSINESS

**Item One:** County Clerk Lisa Lusker presented a list of uncashed checks that were issued in 2021. She explained that one of checks needs to be voided and the money put back into the appropriate fund and the rest of the checks need to be turned in to the State Treasurer for unclaimed property. Commissioner Moody requested that the payees need to be contacted first and Ms. Lusker stated that this has already been done unsuccessfully.

**On motion (23-127)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve voiding one uncashed check issued in 2021 and sending the remaining uncashed checks issued in 2021 to the State Treasurer for unclaimed property as presented.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Two:** Mr. Emerson presented a quote from Craw-Kan quote given to him by Sheriff Smith for a new intercom system at the Pittsburg Judicial Center. He explained that Craw Kan is currently installing an intercom system in the Courthouse.

**On motion (23-128)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to approve the quote from Craw Kan in the amount of \$7,152.00 for an intercom system for the Pittsburg Judicial Center.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

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Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**Item Three:** Commissioner Moody addressed the funeral for former commissioner Anthony Pichler. The Commissioner decided to allow any employee that would like to attend the funeral to do so without losing sick or vacation time but to inform the department head. Commissioner Wood stated that the funeral services are tomorrow, Wednesday, March 14, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

**Item Four:** Commissioner Wood spoke about having a work session with IT Director Brandon Spaur about time clocks and access to the graders. The Commissioners scheduled a work session for immediately after the Regular Session on Friday, March 17, 2023.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Item One:** Mr. Emerson stated that the Kansas County Commissioners Association spring conference will be held on April 25-27, 2023 in Hays, Kansas and registration is now open. He stated that he has registered and reserved a room for Commissioner Wood. Commissioner Blair stated that he will also be attending and requested that Mr. Emerson register and reserve a room for him also.

**Item Two:** Commissioner Moody spoke about the clean up on 69 Highway near the buffalo pens that took place yesterday. He said that he appreciates Matt Sanders getting the machinery for the clean-up. He said that everything went smoothly and he appreciates the work of his crew and Commissioner Wood and Blair's crews. He stated that the entire area looks much better. Commissioner Blair requested that the public please use the large item drop off available at the Recycling Center and please do not drop the items off on county roads or over the county bridges. Mr. Emerson also wanted to remind the public of the free dump day at the landfill. It was discussed that any Crawford County citizen can use 1 free day at any time during the month but to remind the public that the trucks must be tarped.

**Item Three:** Commissioner Wood stated that his road foreman and himself will be attending the 2023 County Commissioners and Road Officials Meeting on March 29, 2023 at 9:00 AM at the KDOT meeting Room in Chanute, Kansas. Commissioner Blair stated that he will also be attending along with his foreman. Commissioner Moody stated that he will try to attend and will send his foreman.

**Item Four:** The Commissioners announced that more than one commissioner may be in attendance at the funeral of Anthony Pichler tomorrow at 10:00 AM.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION continued**

**Item Two:** Commissioner Wood requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship.

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**On motion (23-129)** of Commissioner Blair and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to discuss insurance and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim and to reconvene by 11:23 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:08 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:23 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.**

### **NEW BUSINESS continued**

**Item Five:** Commissioner Wood addressed trash at Whitmore pits. Commissioner Blair stated that he spoke to Mr. George Washington and explained to him that the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism has volunteers that picks up and bags the trash and KDWPT picks up the bags. He stated that he spoke to Mr. Dave Jenkins, Wildlife Manager at KDWPT and he stated that they will do a better job of picking up bags sooner. Commissioner Blair stated that those pits are a bad spot for illegal dumping of large items.

### **UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **FUTURE BUSINESS:**

**Item One: March 17, 2023 – 9:00 AM** Work Session with Wally Wilson, Ryan Insurance.

**Item Two: March 17, 2023 –** Work Session with IT Director Brandon Spaur immediately after the regular session to discuss time clocks.

**Item Three: March 24, 2023 –** Opening of culvert bids.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Item One: March 15, 2023 –** More than one Commissioner may be in attendance at the funeral services of former commissioner Anthony Pichler.

**Item Two: March 20, 2023 –** City/County Luncheon from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM at the Homer Cole Center in Pittsburg. All three Commissioners will be in attendance.

**Item Three: March 21, 2023 –** Mr. Brady Hill & Frontenac High School Senior Class touring the Courthouse and attending Commission Meeting.

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**Item Four: March 19, 2023** – 2023 County Commissioner and road Official Meeting at 9:00 AM at the KDOT Meeting Room in Chanute, Kansas. More than one Commissioner may be in attendance.

### **UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**Item One:** Adjournment

**On the motion** of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Wood to adjourn the [March 14, 2023](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 11:27 AM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Wood

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

**The motion prevailed.**

**In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed my official seal and submitted these minutes for the approval of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners.**

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**Lisa Lusker**  
County Clerk

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**This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.**

[Taken BKW 3/14/2023 11:27 AM/amended BKW 3/14/2023 3:45 AM](#)